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Newsletter

Number 02

12 February 2010



Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

Thanks

.. to Caitlyn Redwood for providing a delicious morning tea for the staff.
.. to Michelle Konings and Denise for co-ordinating the Amazing Races at school this week (and also to Jennie Clarke and Yvette Biddle). A great team building exercise. We really appreciate your efforts.

.. Mark Biddle for repairs to our hall ceiling prior to last year's prize giving. Mark regularly contributes his time and skill to the school for no charge.

.. our PTA which made a donation of \$10,000 this week as contribution to books purchased over 2010. This will make a significant difference to budgets this year and help us to stretch dollars, and programmes, just that much further. The Board and staff are especially grateful for the commitment of our PTA and the wider parent body. We will ensure this money is wisely spent.

People of the week

.. those parents who will be attending next weeks year 5 and 6 camp

.. those parents who have offered to help out in classrooms or some other area of the school on a regular basis this year.

Best wishes

To our year 5 and 6 campers. We hope you have an awesome camp experience next week, that the weather is kind to you and that you come back with lots of wonderful memories. Remember to support each other as you achieve your camp goals.

Parent Helpers Roster

This was sent home today. We hope to start you all next week. Please negotiate any further changes (or advise any further offers of time) to the classroom teacher concerned. Further offers to assist with the PMP programme would also be greatly appreciated.

Sunhats

A reminder that school bucket sunhats are compulsory in terms 1 and 4. Please ensure these are packed at the beginning of each school day. Clothing which covers the shoulders is also advisable with sun block at your discretion.

think... **SOLD!**
think yellow,
think...
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Term Events

Please pencil the following dates into your calendar. We will advise of further dates as these come to hand.

12 Feb	Interview appointment sheets sent home
24 Feb	Syndicate discussion evening
24 Feb	Tennis Doubles Tournament
25 Feb	Year 7 and 8 Cricket Tournament
26 Feb	Year 5 and 6 Cricket Tournament
26 Feb	Indicator reports sent home
1 / 2 March	Teacher / Student / parent Conferences
4 March	Zone Swimming Sports at Kokopu School (pp 5.3)
9 March	March meeting of the Board of Trustees
10 March	School Swimming Sports
16 March	Year 4-6 Interschool Swimming Championships
17 March	Year 7 and 8 Interschool Swimming Championships

What's on In Rooms This Term?

On Wednesday 24 February 3 meetings will be held to better inform you about organisation, routines, expectations, timetables, major units of work, significant events etc. in your child's class this term/year. You are encouraged to attend these meetings and will get a chance to ask any questions of a general nature.

Meeting times and locations are as follows:

Middle Syndicate (Rooms 5 to 9) 6:30 pm in room 7 (Mrs Burgin's room)

Junior Syndicate (Rooms 1 to 4) 7:15 pm in room 1 (Library)

Senior Syndicate (Rooms 10 to 12) 8:00 pm in room 12 (Mr D's room)

We hope you can set aside the time to attend these meetings. **Please advise the school office next week if you will be in attendance.**

School Contributions / Trips and Events Fee

Thank you to those parents who have moved so promptly on the payment of fees and to those who make some sacrifices in order to meet the voluntary component of this fee. Those opting for quarterly payment of the school contribution will receive a reminder notice each term. If feeling financially stretched at the moment parents are welcome to contact Kevin to discuss alternative payment arrangements. You will find us accommodating and discreet.

Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews)

The above are scheduled for 1 and 2 March - an interview booking sheet accompanies this week's newsletter. Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews with their child or to make an alternative appointment if these days do not suit. While syndicate discussions are an opportunity to talk about matters of a general nature, conferences are an opportunity to talk about your child specifically, to see how they have settled, to note any concerns, and to set some targets. This is a chance for you and your child (optional for year 1 children) to be heard and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

Homework

Homework is **encouraged but optional** at Matarau School. For most children this will mean 4 nights homework a week (around 20 minutes each night) with most of this time spent on word learning, maths basic facts and reading, with one activity related to their class programme. Parents should feel free to advise their child's teacher if the load needs to be lightened for any reason or if they wish their child excused from homework altogether. This saves tension and time wasted chasing homework. **If you do NOT want your child to receive homework please advise their teacher NEXT week.** If you are on board please set a regular time and place and advise us if we can help with any "speed wobbles" along the way. Let's start as we mean to continue by getting routines well established.

(Although the research is a little inconclusive we believe that regular homework routines lead to better performance and a better preparation for secondary school for most children).

Consent to release information

The Ministry of Health has asked for names, DOB, ethnicity, contact details etc for our year 7 and 8 students as part of their immunisation programme and to compile a register of children's vaccination status. The Privacy Commissioner has ruled that schools might release this information as long as parents are advised beforehand. We think we should go one step further and give parents the option of having this information withheld should they choose - we think this is a more appropriate application of the privacy laws. So .. if you **DO NOT** want this information released for the purpose stated above please contact Kevin next week. If I do not hear from you these details will be provided to officials of the Ministry of Health for the purpose stated.

Tennis Doubles and Cricket Tournaments

Good luck to those students participating in these events as follows ..

.. Tennis Doubles - 24 February .. Year 7 and 8 cricket - 25 Feb. .. Year 5 and 6 cricket - 26 Feb.

A reminder that parents are responsible for supervision and transport to and from the venue. Don't forget sun block, Matarau T-shirts, lunch and plenty of fluids. There are still some consent forms outstanding and so please return these next week so that we can confirm our teams. Any questions to Mr D please.

Pool Keys

The pool is available for public use. Hire keys are available from the school office at \$25 per family for the 2010 swimming season. Those who held their key last year in anticipation of using again this year received an invoice last week. Please send the money in asap or return your key please so that we can make this available to another user. Many thanks.

Swimming

Children are required to have their swimming gear at school each day. Thank you.

Swimming Trials

Thank you to those parents who have offered to assist with the timing of swimmers on 22 or 23 February (senior and middle schools respectively). We do, however, require the help of a few more parents. If you are able to assist, please give Kevin a call. These trials help ensure correct selection of swimmers for zone & interschool events & assist us to place children in heats for our school swimming sports. We would love your help with this.

Parents of year 3 children who would like their children to participate in the competitive races at our school swimming sports (as opposed to the usual junior water confidence activities) are asked to advise their child's teacher early next week - we will then include these children in the time trials.

Zone Swimming Sports - Kokopu School - 4.3 (pp 5.3)

Qualifying children will receive consents for this event on 25 February **for return the following day**. Attendance for qualifying children (based on timed heats here at school) is optional but encouraged. If your child misses the qualifying heats and you would like them to attend this event, no promises, but please give Mr Delemare a call. Updates to follow.

School Swimming Sports - 10.3

Our School Swimming Sports takes place Wednesday 10 March (pp 11.3) and so you might like to pencil this in to your diaries. Events run most of the day culminating in a junior demonstration, relays and acknowledgements at the end of the day. You, and extended family, are invited to share this day with us - more details to follow.

Term Headlice Inspection

.. Will be held on Friday 26 February with a follow up the following week. Thank you to those parents who have volunteered their time and assistance. We have been advised of infestation in at least one class and so suggest that all parents check, treat and then check weekly thereafter. Thanks.

Request from Junior Class

The junior class uses wine cask boxes as book boxes. We have an ongoing need for these, so whenever you empty one please bring it to school for us! Thank you.

My Career Books

This year, junior stationery lists had the **OPTION** of buying a custom made portfolio to contain reports and other school documents gathered throughout a child's school career. We know how often parents misplace reports, school photographs etc. and these could be a handy place to store these. Although these are \$22, this is a one off purchase, covering schooling through to year 13. While we included these on stationery lists for year 1 and 2 children, parents are most welcome to purchase these for older children for whom they are just as relevant. **There is a limited supply of these and they cannot be purchased anywhere else - if you would like to view a sample portfolio please drop by the school office.**

After School Care

All users of this programme are asked to register please. This can be done on line by visiting www.skids.co.nz or alternatively by checking in with the programme manager here at school before the start of ASC (we also now have forms at the school office). The standard of this programme has been significantly upgraded and **large subsidies** are available to most users. Children complete set activities, have supervised and assisted homework, a healthy afternoon tea and other extras. Parents of children who travel on the bus into town may want to consider placing their children from 3:00 to 4:00 as they would arrive home having had their afternoon tea, burnt off some energy, with their homework completed. We hope parents will make full use of this programme to help ensure it is sustainable. Brochures are available from the school office.

Can you help?

Late Sunday afternoon a stolen White Salty Dog Van was involved in a robbery in the Ruatangata area. If you saw anything could you please phone the school as any extra information would be of help to the police.

Community Notices

Found - Black, young, male dog with white chest. Sunday on Matarau Rd. Ph 433 5530.

Kittens - Free to a good home. Phone 433 5032.

For Sale - Good quality firewood. \$50 per 6x4 trailer. Ph 433 8185.

Bingo Fundraising Evening - Sat 13th Feb 7.00pm, Whangarei Rock N Roll Club, \$5 per ticket. Music and supper provided. For more info ph Michelle on 438 6808.

Tennis Open Day - Sunday 14 Feb 1.00-4.00pm, Mairtown Tennis Club. For more info see www.tennisnz.com

Allens Kids Triathlon - Sunday 14 March, Onerahi. Enter Online now. www.allens.co.nz

Tikipunga AFC Junior Rally - Registration Date 19th Feb 4.00-6.00 and Sunday 21st 9.00-11.00. All players welcome. Tikipunga Sports Grounds, Reed St. Enquiries please contact Jan on 0275444611 or 4343236.

High School Musica on Stage - Presented by TK Musical Theatre Co, Captain Bougainville Theatre, Forum North, 4-20th Mar 1.30, 4.30 & 7.30 \$28 per ticket. Book at Ticketek or Forum North Booking Office.

Kamo Girls' Brigade - Meeting Monday evenings 6-8pm at St Paul's Church Centre. Girls and young women between 5-18 yrs welcome. For more info contact Brenda Smith 4370821 or Sheryn Comrie (4335756)

St Johns Youth Programme - Teaching aged 6-18 first aid, healthcare, leadership and life skills. Re-opening February. For more information check out www.stjohnyouth.org.nz or phone 0800 785 646.

Family Works - Presents Strengthening Step Families, a six week programme designed to better understand & manage step families and Parenting through Separation, a 2 week programme aimed at parents helping their children after separation. For more info contact Family Works, Genesis Centre, 4376729.

Scholastic Book Orders .. Issued last week, orders need to be at the office by next Friday 19th February.

Guitar Lessons

There are a number of vacancies in this popular after school programme (Wednesday & Thursday in the Old School Room - by the upper car park). Cost \$20 per lesson. Vangie has a spare guitar for kids trying out. If interested please phone Vangie on 434 7573 or 021 1883251, or email killalea@ihug.co.nz

Newsletter

Remember to ask your child for the newsletter each Friday afternoon. Our newsletter (along with archived copies) can also be accessed on our website or emailed to you on request (just contact Helen). If you have questions from time to time just give us a call - we NEVER mind answering these.

Parental consent to use photographs of your children

When parents enrol their children at Matarau School they are asked to give consent for the school to display their child's work and christian name on the school's website and in school publications. This is fairly standard practice across schools. We have altered the wording of this consent to included **children's photographs**. It now reads as follows

I will advise in the event that I DO NOT WANT my child's WORK, NAME OR PHOTOGRAPH to be displayed on the school website (christian name only) or in the school newsletter or in any school publication.

If you are **happy for the school to use photographs** in this way you **need take no action**. If you definitely **DO NOT** want your child's photograph used in such a way could you **please advise the school office next week** and we will ensure that staff are advised of this. 2010 consent forms have been updated to include this amendment. We regularly monitor all matters relating to internet and general safety of children. We live in a rapidly changing world and such matters remain under constant review.

Board Election

You may already know that this year school boards are up for re-election. If you are interested in serving on our board please don't hesitate to contact Kevin or any board member to discuss what this involves (or perhaps attend the occasional board meeting). The closing date for nominations is 23 April and polling day is 7 May. While it would be fair to say that the autonomy of school boards has been very much eroded in recent years, there are still ways boards can make a real difference to schools - the quality of our teaching team, very low class numbers, and past and anticipated building projects are just a few examples of this (Thanks to the current board!).

A few reminders ..

Please do your best to ensure children .. are at school no later than 10 minutes before the first bell .. have a drink bottle each day to keep on their desk (preferably with water rather than sweetened variations) .. have a good night's sleep prior .. have their homework with them .. have their sunhats (sun block at your discretion) .. and a healthy lunch to help them through the afternoon. They are already off to a great start .. what awesome parents.

Finally

Each year the school identifies areas for special focus based on observations drawn the year before. This year you can expect a special focus in mathematics, information literacy and spelling. Professional development for staff is well under way and you can expect updates throughout the year.

Regards
Kevin Trewhella
PRINCIPAL

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children, please support them

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Matarau School PTA

WE NEED YOU!!

We are a friendly group of parents who work alongside the Board of Trustees and Staff to improve our children's school.

Our school has **amazing parents** with lots of **awesome skills** and resources and we need you to bring those to the PTA!

The PTA raises a significant amount of money for the school but not without YOUR help. Joining the PTA is a great way to make friends and be involved in our school. We need people to join the core PTA committee and take the co-ordination of some events.

Our meetings are:

- monthly on a Monday night usually following the BOT meeting
- Start promptly at 7pm
- Do not run late into the evening
- In the staffroom so you can make a hot drink
- Friendly and a great way to be involved in school
- Attended by a BOT and a staff representative

For more information please contact:

Mary Sissons, President 433 5156 or Jorjahl@vodafone.co.nz, Cherrie Parker, Secretary 4371327

Julie Williams, Staff Rep

Diary of Events for 2010

21 February	- Selling sausages and steak at National Four Wheel Drive event, Lovell's Farm
5 March	- Family Picnic night at school - see notice in newsletter
15 March	- Next PTA meeting
28 March	- Trail bike ride - we need an organiser for this to go ahead
Term 1/2	- Catering day
Term 2	- Whole school disco
Term 2	- Ball
Term 3	- Tea towels
Term 3	- Trivia night
Term 3	- Disco
Term 3/Term 4	- Community Night
Term 4	- Calendars
Term 4	- Chocolates
Term 4	- Calf Club Day

PTA EVENTS

FREE SUNSCREEN

The PTA has a stock of sunscreen that has expired and so we can't sell it.

You are welcome to help yourself from the boxes in reception.

Please be aware that it is expired and so may not be as effective or may cause irritation.

Please take and use at your own risk and perhaps patch test it or use cautiously.



PTA Family Picnic & Swim Evening at school Friday 5 March

Start time - 6.00PM & BYO Drink (No alcohol allowed)

Bring your own picnic food, picnic blanket and togs

This is a great chance to mix with and meet other school families, chat to the PTA and let the kids have a swim.

Families with children starting school soon are welcome too. (If you know of a family starting school ring and invite them for us please)

Trail Bike Ride Help Help Help



This year we have a tentative booking for **Sunday 28 March** and Greg Lovell has very kindly okayed the use of his farm again this year.

Simon Mehrtens and his great team are happy to set up the track. **HOWEVER** – before we can have a trail bike ride we need a **VOLUNTEER** to organise the remainder of the event – such as Signs, ambulance, food, toilets, ticketing, advertising and insurance. Sue Mehrtens is happy to advise and pass on all her information to the new co-ordinator. We appreciate the work that both Simon and Sue have put into this event each year. This is one of the PTA's biggest fundraisers.

If you would like to take on this role, you are truly a star so please call Mary Sissons 4335156 over the weekend. (If this event is to go ahead we need to get signage and advertising out and confirm with Shayn Rouse in writing)